

SECRET

Original forwarded to
 SA/RR, with note from
 JAB: Attached is info
 for answering
 request from

25X1A9a

ARMY Declass/Release Instructions On File

TO: Chief, Geographic Research Area, ORR 25 February 1958

FROM: Acting Chief, Map Library Division, ORR

SUBJECT: Aerial Photography of South Vietnam

REFERENCE: Letter from [REDACTED] 24 January 1958, SECRET

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1. The reference letter requests information on the aerial mapping project in progress in South Vietnam. Ch/G requested that the Map Library provide such information as needed. The information below is unclassified except where otherwise indicated.

2. The aerial photography currently being done in Vietnam is part of a long range mapping program being carried out by the Army Map Service, which has joint mapping agreements with Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. Aerial photography at a scale of 1/40,000 will be flown for all of Cambodia and Laos, and of Vietnam south of 17 degrees North Latitude. At the present time approximately one-third of this photography has been flown. Coverage is scattered. An American firm, Worldwide Air Surveys, Incorporated, has the contract for the photography. It is anticipated that flying will be completed during the current season (November 1957—May 1958).

3. The mapping agreement with Vietnam calls for mapping at scales 1/25,000, 1/50,000, 1/100,000 and 1/250,000. Mapping will be done by the Army Map Service and the Government of Vietnam with the Army Map Service providing assistance and training in cartographic techniques to the Vietnamese. A map series at a scale of 1/50,000 is scheduled to be completed sometime in 1960 or later. (Map coverage of selected priority areas is in compilation at AMS at this time. SECRET)

3. According to the Army Map Service, there is no written clause in the mapping agreement with the Government of South Vietnam prohibiting release of the results of this project to a third nation. However, the agreement implies that the material shall not be released to a third nation.

4. When the photography has been completed and is no longer being used by the Army Map Service it will probably be filed at the Aeronautical Chart and Information Center photographic depository at the Pentagon. It is not known what classification the material will bear.

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5. It is suggested that [REDACTED] direct any official inquiries about this project to the Department of the Army. An alternative would be [REDACTED] to obtain the photography from the Government of South Vietnam.

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